

Colour: Above uniform buffy brown, laterally and on the upper lip nathy gray, lower lip and under surface cool creamy white.

Remarks: This snake can be distinguished from the Mulga Snake (*Pseudochis australis*) by the shape of the head, by the number of scales round the body, 19 instead of 17, these being also more lanceolate dorsally.

The Taipan (*Oxyuranus scutellatus*) which grows to a similar length has a different shaped head and 21 to 23 rows of scales round the body which bear conspicuous keels dorsally, the keels becoming less pronounced and even disappearing completely laterally.

REPORTS OF EXCURSIONS

JARRAHDALÉ

Ideal spring weather favoured the excursion of the Western Australian Naturalists' Club to Jarrahdale on Sunday, October 8, 1950, and two full bus-loads of members made the trip.

Jarrahdale is a timber milling township, 4-5 miles within the Darling searp and 30 miles south of Perth. Though it was established in 1870 and the timber in its environs has been cut-over the habitat has been otherwise little impaired. During the excursion we examined the valley of the Gooralong Brook, south-east of the settlement, and here there were only two small holdings. The area was typical Darling Range laterite country, mainly of jarrah forest (*Eucalyptus marginata*) with some marri (*E. calophylla*). The Gooralong Brook, a tributary of the Serpentine River, is a small perennial stream flowing in a shallow mature valley, its banks being thickly fringed with thick vegetation. About two miles from Jarrahdale it expanded into a swampy area, grown with paperbark (*Melaleuca parviflora*) and flooded gum (*E. rudis*).

Plants did not come under special study. Members noticed from the bus, however, that *Leschenaultia biloba* was plentiful and in flower alongside the main Bunbury road, but it was sparse or absent in the adjoining fenced paddocks where grazing was carried on. This was a reminder that one of the most potent factors in the diminution of some species of native flora is the grazing of stock. In the Jarrahdale area the following were some of the orchid species in flower: *Caladenia Patersonii*, var. *longicauda*, *Caladenia flava*, *Pterostylis recurva*, *Pterostylis nana* and *Eriochilus scaber*—the latter two identified by Mrs. R. Eriekson. A prominent exotie on the cleared ground near the township was the French Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*).

Dr. J. Gentilli reported that because of the lateness of the season the fungi collected mostly belonged to durable species. *Lentinus fasciatus* and *Polyporus australiensis* were found on dead timber, and an old *Fomes* sp. was collected from a tree. Two specimens of *Lentinus* collected in the swampy areas where a minor creek originated were fresh and moist. All the remaining specimens were dry. Some good fresh specimens of *Panacolus*,

probably *P. retirugis*, were collected on horse dung in the swampy area.

In the waters of Gooralong Brook Koonaes (*Cheraps preissii*) were numerous and it was interesting to note that they harboured numerous individuals of a *Temnocephala*—the northernmost record of this group in the State. No Jilgies (*C. quinqueearinatus*) were observed. Two species of fishes were noted: the Western Australian Minnow (*Galaxias ooeidentalis*) and the Nightfish (*Bostockia hemigramma*). Dip-nettings in various parts of the brook and its swampy enlargements did not reveal the presence of an abundant fauna.

In the damp earth adjacent were collected two individuals of *Peripatus* (*Peripatoides occidentalis*—the northern form, *gilesii*, with 16 pairs of claw-bearing legs, and of both colour forms, one specimen being red-brown and the other almost black). The land amphipod was rather sparsely represented. Mr. K. Sheard reported that the species is not yet identified but it appears to be ecologically equivalent and closely allied to *Talitroides sylvaticus*, the leaf-mould amphipod of the savannah forests of south-eastern Australia and not related to *T. kershawi* the amphipod of the south-eastern rain-forest areas and on which the Lyre-bird feeds.

Birds were numerous, the outstanding observation being of a single individual of the Red-eared Firetail (*Zonaeginthus ooulatus*) in the brook-side thickets (the only recent northern Darling Range records are from Mundaring Reservoir, September 1946, and Upper Drakes Brook near Waroona, January and November 1940). Other species noted were: White-tailed Black Cockatoo, Twenty-eight Parrot, Western Rosella, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Pallid Cuckoo (calling), Fan-tailed Cuckoo (calling), Golden Bronze Cuckoo (calling), Treemartin, Grey Fantail (singing), Scarlet Robin, Golden Whistler, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Western Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Western Warbler (singing), Banded Blue-Wren (several males in full plumage), Black-capped Sittella, Red-tipped Diamond-bird (calling continually, one seen entering nesting hollow in jarrah), Spotted Diamond-bird (not numerous), Silvercyc, Western Spinebill, Brown Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, Red Wattle-bird, Little Wattle-bird, Raven, Squaker and Magpie.

Three Kangaroos (*Macropus oeydromus*) were seen. Signs of Possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) were looked for without success. Rabbits were absent.

—D.L.S.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Display of Crested Bell-bird.—On October 10, 1948, at 1815 hours, I observed two Bell-birds (*Oreoica gutturalis*) by a roadside, apparently displaying. The duller of the two birds, which I assumed to be a hen, hopped over the ground calling "chirr, chir-r-r-r," while the second bird, presumed to be a male, behaved